

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

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SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PRIVATE MEETING JOHNSON-SEменов APRIL 7

(SALT TWO-597)

1. AT MY "WORKING" LUNCH TODAY WITH SEMENOV, HE HAD SHEAF OF TYPEWRITTEN NOTES NUMBERED FROM ONE TO TEN, DEALING WITH WHAT HE TERMED THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK. ON STRUCTURE HE REFERRED TO MY APRIL 2 STATEMENT AND ASKED ME TO AMPLIFY. I DID SO BY EXPANDING ON EXAMPLE OF SCC IN THAT STATEMENT, POINTING TO ABSURDITY OF SOVIET DRAFT WHICH REQUIRES REFERENCE TO FOUR PREVIOUS DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE WHAT SCC WAS ALL ABOUT IN NEW AGREEMENT AND PRESSED HIM HARD TO EXPLAIN WHY HE OBJECTED TO PUTTING IT IN SINGLE PLACE IN NEW AGREEMENT. HE NEVER GAVE ANY SATISFACTORY ANSWER, MERELY REPEATING THAT WE SHOULD STICK TO TERMS OF AIDE-MEMOIRE. I REPEATEDLY URGED ON HIM, PUTTING ASIDE QUESTION OF SUBSTANCE, IMPORTANCE OF NEW AGREEMENT BEING SELF-CONTAINED. IF WE COULD AGREE ON THAT PRINCIPLE THEN WE COULD BETTER DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES. I SAID THAT I WOULD NOT WANT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR NEW AGREEMENT JEOPARDIZED BY ITS LACK OF CLARITY AND COMPLEXITIES ARISING FROM

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NECESSITY OF REFERRING TO OTHER DOCUMENTS FOR UNDERSTANDING

OF IT. HIS PRIMARY RESPONSE WAS BASED UPON ASSERTION THAT IN DETERMINING CONTENT OF NEW AGREEMENT AIDE-MEMOIRE ALSO LARGELY DETERMINED FORM.

2. AGAIN USING RUBRIC OF STRUCTURE OF NEW AGREEMENT, HE REFERRED TO IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO IMPLEMENTING PARA 5 AIDE-MEMOIRE. I POINTED OUT THAT PARAGRAPH WAS PERMISSIVE RATHER THAN MANDATORY, BUT, ON ASSUMPTION THAT HE WAS TALKING PRIMARILY ABOUT ARTICLE IX THEIR DRAFT, AS I HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD HIM THOSE ITEMS WERE UNDER STUDY; I DID NOT REJECT POSSIBILITY OF DRAFT INCLUDING SOME SUCH ITEMS; AND IN DUE COURSE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO SPECIFICS. HOWEVER, I FELT PRIORITY SHOULD NOW BE GIVEN TO HOW WE IMPLEMENTED PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF AIDE-MEMOIRE.

3. HE THEN SWITCHED TO "METHOD OF WORK", URGING THAT AS IN SALT I NOT ONLY MEMBERS OF DELEGATION, BUT ALSO STAFFS BE PERMITTED TO FLOAT "UNAUTHORIZED TEXTS" WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT BY EITHER THE WRITER OR THE RECEIVER. I SAID THAT I ENTIRELY AGREED THAT WORKING GROUPS SHOULD FREELY WORK TO THIS END AND, IN FACT, I FELT THAT DRAFTING GROUP AND DEFINITIONS GROUP WERE ALREADY DOING SO. I REGRETTED THAT GROUP WORKING ON MIRV VERIFICATION WAS NOT ABLE TO DO SO AND HOPED THAT IT COULD START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. I AGREED TO HIS REQUEST FOR ANOTHER PRIVATE MEETING WITH ME ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 10, AT WHICH TIME HE TOLD ME HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS AND NON-TRANSFER. (AT THE END OF THE MEETING HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY CONCERNED ON HOW TO PRESENT MATTERS THAT HE HAD RAISED WITH ME TODAY AND HAD WORKED LONG AND HARD ON IT AND IN FACT HAD SPENT SOME SLEEPLESS NIGHTS ON SUBJECT). JOHNSON

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